137 [241] THE JOURNEY to Braşov (Kronstadt) took us along the valley, both sides of which were well cultivated, potatoes, beans, oats, maize being the chief crops; sunflowers and small patches of hemp were also seen. A halt for petrol, a short distance from Bran, provided an opportunity for studying the meadow land vegetation close to the road; the following were noted: *Scilla trilobium, Centaurea scabiosa, Coronilla varia, Hypericum perforatum, Medicago falcata, Peucedanum oreoselinum, Knautia arvensis, Campanula rotundifolium, Helianthemum chamaecistus, Stachys betonica, Dianthus Carthusianorum, Viola tricolor, Senecio aquatica, Trifolium procumbens, Achillea millefolium, Chrysanthemum leucanthemum, Campanula trachelium, C. rapunculus, Cirsium oleraceo, Galium verum, G. Mollugo, Geranium pratense, Lathyrus pratensis, Melampyrum nemorosum*, etc.

AT BRAŞOV were seen *Potentilla canescens* and *Silene otites* among many commoner species.

IT WAS NOT until we reached Borsec that we had time to study the vegetation in any detail, and it was somewhat unfortunate that the truly sub-alpine and alpine regions were not within easy reach. The greater part of the mountain sides surrounding Borsec were covered with spruce forests quite to the summits and beech forest was not well represented, being met with as somewhat poor specimens often at a considerable height. These forests proved to be rather deficient in species, botanically.

DURING our walk from Borsec across meadows and up on to the summit of Bukkhavas, it was interesting to see the beech and birch above the limit of the spruce. *Ribes grossularia* was seen in fruit in open spots in the forest. The open summit was covered with *Vaccinium myrtillus* with its usual association; *Scorzonera rosea* was also growing upon the summit. Leaving the mountain and going down towards Bilbor we noted a grassy clearing with a building where cattle had been housed: this as in other cases was covered with a prolific growth of dock (*Rumex sp.*); it invariably accompanied places where mountain dairies had been established. On reaching the valley a fine clump of *Dianthus superbus* was seen.

244 A WALK around the cottages of Old Borsec revealed several vegetable gardens apparently associated with the possibility

244 of supplying the summer visitors with vegetables. Runner beans, potatoes, poppy-seed, cabbages, red beet, onions, lettuce, and carrots were common, and in one garden in addition to the above, red currants, gooseberries, vegetable marrows, fennel, caraway and leeks were growing.

137 The following plants were noticed in the neighbourhood of Borsec: *Senecio fuchsii, Maianthemum bifolium, Gentiana cruciata, G. asclepiadea, Stachys alpina, Chaerophyllum hirsutum, Dipsacus laciniatus, Trifolium pannonicum, Myosotis sparsiflora, Carduus personata, Campanula cervicaria, Lychnis viscaria, Silene armeria, Dianthus armeria, Dianthus superbus, Salix pentandra, Turritis glabra, Calamagrostis epigeios.*

One very interesting area was visited by Capt. Chase, viz. the Red Rocks near Tulgheş (Tölgyes): on account of the number of interesting plants to be found there this area has been preserved under the care of the Botanic Garden of Cluj. Tulgheş is the village which comes next to Corbu and here the mountains rise up from the valley floor of the Bistricioara and are covered with forests, the spruce (*Picea excelsa*) being dominant and reaching quite down to the valley which here has an altitude of about 600 metres. It was noted that sparse deciduous forest occurred above the spruce, the chief trees being the pedunculate oak (*Quercus pedunculata*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), with scattered examples of lime (*Tilia cordata*) and poplar (*Populus tremula*). Climbing higher, a narrow belt of birch (*Betula verrucosa*) occurred followed by beech (*Fagus silvatica*), with examples of sycamore (*Acer pseudo-platanus*) and lime. Still higher up, as usual, there was summer pasturage for sheep. The conspicuous cliffs, the "Red Rocks," could be seen standing out above the forest, and near them Capt. Chase recorded the following: *Sempervivum hirtum, Arabis arenosa, Phleum montanum, Cytisus leucotrichus, Campanula carpatica, Senecio rupestris, Spiraea ulmifolia, Allium montanum, Libanotis montana, Thalictrum foetidum, Melampyrum saxosum,* and what was one of the chief objects of the visit, plants of the outstanding endemic *Astragalus Romeri* growing in a ravine between the rocks.

4:Fleure S-5 (no date)1936 ED1 Rumania ED1

543

5. THINGS SEEN AT BORSEC FAIR, AUGUST 20TH

[286] **1. Material by the Yard.**

Cotton: Prints, calicoes, zephyrs, ginghams, men's shirtings.
Wool: Coloured serges, rough grey and brown woollen material (very thick) for men's and women's winter clothing.
Artificial Silk: In plain colours, Crêpe de Chine in plain colours, a very few printed silks.
Lace: Coarse white lace edgings (from Nottingham).

[291] **2. Clothing.**

Men's: Trousers, coats, waistcoats, cloth caps, embroidered lambskin waistcoats, braces.

Women's: Knitted and crocheted wool caps and berets, patent leather belts. Printed cotton and artificial silk pieces for head coverings. Ribbons.

Children's: Babies' knitted woollen garments. Modern-style dresses in artificial silk with machine-made embroidery. Socks and stockings of cotton and wool hand-knitted in Roumania. Artificial silk stockings manufactured from yarn imported from Switzerland and France.

[295] **3. Boots and Shoes for Men, Women and Children.**

Field boots and heavy nailed boots for men.
Manufactured boots and shoes for women and children.
Ready-made peasant shoes of leather.
Ready-made peasant shoes of leather with rubber attached to sole.
Ready-made peasant shoes made from old motor tyres.
Shoes of plaited felt of all sizes for women and children.
Shoes of knitted coarse wool with straps.
Pieces of leather of correct size for making the peasant shoes and leather thongs for lacing them.
Leather and mohair laces for using with the manufactured boots and shoes.

[415] **4. Pottery.**

Large brown glazed earthenware pots only. No other pottery of any kind was seen in the fair.

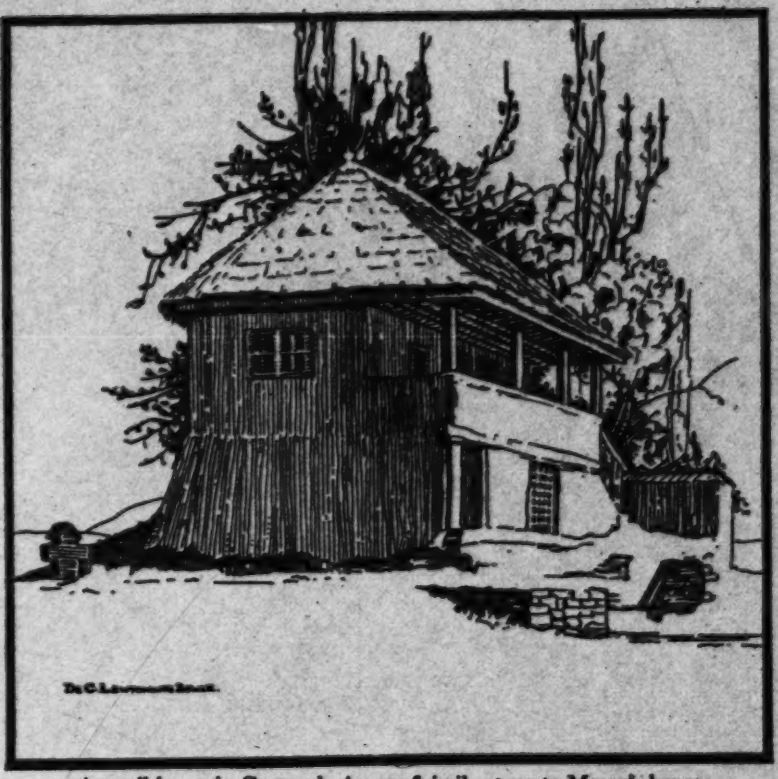
[285] **5. Baskets, etc.**

Hand-made of rushes gathered by the peasants who make them. Some colour introduced into the larger baskets; strong, neat weaving. Also a few big hats as worn in the fields by the Hungarian peasant women.

● 244 **6. Greengrocery.**

Turnips, potatoes, yellow beans, cabbages, gherkins, carrots, onions, tomatoes, ardei, lemons, apples, pears, Indian corn, water melons, cantaloupes.

342



A small house in Curtea de Argeș of similar type to Mayor's house.

244 There was a large garden, most of the ground
343 being given to growing maize and vegetable marrows, though there were various small fruit-trees. The open space in front of the house had a summer kitchen. These out-door kitchens are used by almost all the peasants where an open space or yard of any sort provides available space (see illustration opposite).[1]

342 THE SECOND HOUSE which we visited and examined is illustrated facing page 29 (B).[2] This shows a well-built structure and represents the type which is more common in the town itself. The walls, which are whitewashed, are of brick and rubble and have an average thickness of 32 cm. There is a good shingled roof with good carved wooden decoration under the eave. The floor of the terrace is earth, and the entire structure of the balcony is of wood, without paint or stain. The end of the house has a pleasing finish in the form of a moulded cornice and pilasters (B).

THIS HOUSE is occupied by two families; the men, both being potters, share the potter's table (two wheels) in the lower house.

1 [See pp. 306 (HRAF pagination) -- Analyst]

2 [See pp. 286 (HRAF pagination) -- Analyst]

132 being common at this height (440 metres and upwards). July and August are the hottest months.

THE MEAN annual rainfall for Curtea de Argeş (taken over a period of nine years) is 672 mm. Precipitation occurs all the year round, but the rainiest months are May and June.

243 THE PRINCIPAL crop is maize, from which not only is the staple food "mamaliga" made, but the stems and leaves are used for animal fodder and bedding. Oats and rye are grown for fodder on the larger farms only. Wheat is not grown in the region. Soil and climate are suitable, but at present the peasant possesses very little machinery; harvesting would have to be done with a sickle or scythe and threshing with a flail. It is easier to buy such wheat as is required from the Wallachian Plain.

244 IN ADDITION to the above, every farm, however small, grows various vegetable crops: pumpkins for fodder, tomatoes, paprika, potatoes, onions, runner beans, cabbages, aubergines, often amongst the maize, sometimes as ground crops in the orchards.

246 CULTIVATED FODDER crops are grown only on the larger farms, and consist of clover, lucerne and sometimes a mixture of vetch and oats, and very occasionally turnips.

THE LOWER slopes of the hills form the natural hay meadows of the commune, but occasionally the grass of the orchard is used as rough pasture.

248 HEMP IS grown on the low-lying farms, usually as a boundary crop for the maize. Flax is also grown, but very few sunflowers.

245 AN IMPORTANT aspect of agriculture around Curtea de Argeş is fruit cultivation. Apples, pears and plums are the main crops, with occasional cherries. Every farm, however small, has some fruit trees, sometimes scattered over the whole holding, but more usually in a small orchard. Sufficient apples are grown to allow a considerable export trade to Bucharest. Plums are used for the manufacture of the alcoholic drink tuica in Curtea de Argeş. Recently plum-drying has been tried, and is already being taken up successfully by the more enterprising peasants. Walnuts also are gathered and sold.

241 however, be slightly deficient in grain, especially
133 in poor years.

[311] The hilly land of Transylvania and the Bucovina differs markedly from the plain. There is proportionately less arable and much more meadow, grazing and forest land. The soil is poor. Methods are not as primitive as in the plain land of the Old Kingdom, but over-crowding is more serious and output per head is consequently lower. Parts of this region are slightly deficient in grain. Though [146] the level of food consumption is low, the dietary is more varied than elsewhere in the country, less maize and more meat and dairy produce being eaten.

3. Crops

311 Of the total area of pre-war Rumania, of nearly 30 million hectares (119,000 sq. miles) and twice the area of England and Wales), about 13 million hectares, or 45 per cent. was arable. Permanent meadow, pasture and grazing occupied 14 per cent., while tree and bush crops accounted for a further 2 per cent. The remaining land was non-agricultural, forest and waste land.

243 A very high proportion of the arable—over 80 per cent.—was used for grain growing, principally maize, wheat and barley. Owing to low rainfall, use of poor seed and lack of fertilisers, yields were at a low level and fluctuated widely from year to year.

[439] Out of an average grain production of 11 million tons, 6 millions went into domestic human consumption and 1½ million were exported, the remainder going to fodder, seed and waste. Grain exports have always figured largely in the country's foreign trade. During the twenty years 1920 to 1939 they only once fell below a million tons, and in some years exceeded three million tons. In value, during the decade before the war, they formed, after petroleum products, the main item in exports.

241 No other category of crops compares with grain. Sown fodder crops took barely 5 per cent. of the arable, all other crops, including potatoes, fibres, oilseeds, tobacco and sugar beet, about 8 per cent. Peas, beans and oilseeds were grown in sufficient quantities to provide surpluses for export. Germany established two companies—Solagra in 1934 and Soya A.G. in 1940—which invested large sums in promoting oilseed cultivation. The area 249 under sunflower was raised only slightly, but that under soya rose from nil in 1933 to 103,000 ha. (254,000 acres) in 1939, but the greater part of both crops was located in Bessarabia which Rumania lost to the U.S.S.R. in 1940 (see below).

244 Production of potatoes, vegetables and sugar
247 beet was just sufficient for domestic consumption, but the tobacco crop did not quite meet requirements. Tobacco production had fallen from 20,000 tons in the late nineteen-twenties to 12,000 tons in the years just prior to the war.

245 Fruit production was undeveloped and there was little organised marketing and processing. Plums were the main crop, but three-quarters of the output was used for making brandy. Apples and other kinds of fruit, and walnuts, were produced in fair quantities, but exports were insignificant, and, owing to low quality and the lack of standardisation, there were no prospects of development.

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712
[531] The stairway, about 1.25 meters wide made of massive logs, is generally on the inside of the buildings; when it is located on the outside it leads onto the wooden balcony. The exterior is white-washed. In addition, the surface is decorated with molded bands around each story division. There may also be a vertical division, thus creating a number of large panels. While these areas are symmetrical, neither they nor the molded bands that enclose them have any relation to the placing of windows or pillars (JKnecke, 1918: 62-63).

342
[175]
[563] In 1895 there still existed about 55,000 earth huts (bordei) which were inhabited by the poorest population, generally Gypsies (fig. 63). They are common in the Danubian plain. Over an excavation 1-3 meters deep is placed a gabled roof. The roof is made of boards over which earth is laid. Sometimes reeds are placed over the boards before the earthen cover is added. The entrance is on one of the gabled sides, generally with a southerly exposure, and a window is placed on each gable side (JKnecke, 1918: 4).

343
351 Farm Buildings. In the lowlands the buildings are arranged in no definite order; though generally the house is closest to the road. The corn-house (coşar) is either opposite to or at right angles to the house so that it can be watched. The yard and orchard are surrounded by a fence. The simplest fence is made of wickerwork between wooden poles. More often, however, it is made of boards
[556] that have intricate excised designs (fig. 60). The wealthy people
[563] may add an imposing gateway with a small door. Flower or vegetable
[244] gardens are rare, and the latter are called bulgări, since they are
[247] generally kept by immigrant Bulgarians who grow all the vegetables
[245] for town consumption (Stratilescu, 1907: 233). The farmstead is surrounded by shady trees, and there is generally a plum orchard at the back of the farm buildings (JKnecke, 1918: 8-9).

[184] In the mountain regions the arrangement of the buildings in the yard differs from that of the lowlands. The stables and other buildings are arranged on the border of the yard in a horseshoe form to serve as protection for the house. The yard is usually very small, and has a strong high palisade with a massive gateway, the whole giving the farm a fortress-like appearance (the author points to the presence of bears in summer and wolves in winter) (JKnecke, 1918: 32-36).

343
[184] In the lowlands there are generally not many additional farm buildings in the yard, and this fact is correlated with the pattern of building additional annexes to the house, a more economical and practical procedure. Stables are of the simplest lathwork or wickerwork, covered with a straw roof. Sheds for the storage of straw, hay and cornstalks are absent, for the latter are stacked into tall round piles in the open. The baking oven for summer use, made of mud and bricks, has a hipped roof supported by four pillars.